

Equine Piroplasmosis disease investigation continues

by Texas Animal Health Commission

Canada and a number of U.S. states have imposed movement restrictions or additional entry requirements for horses from Texas after equine piroplasmosis, a tick-transmitted blood disease of equine animals, such as horses, donkeys, mules and zebras, was detected in South Texas in mid-October. Equine piroplasmosis may be carried and transmitted by as many as 15 species of ticks. Although ticks have been collected from the South Texas ranch for testing, final results are not complete, and it is not known whether any of the ticks can serve as a host for the disease.

"Before moving horses from Texas, we urge you and your veterinarian to check with animal health officials for any state of destination, to ensure the animals have met

all entry requirements," said Dr. Bob Hillman, Texas' state veterinarian and head of the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's livestock and poultry health regulatory agency. "Regulatory requirements can be fluid as disease situations evolve, so it is essential to call each state each time you haul." As states provide entry restrictions and requirements, the documents are posted on the TAHC web site at <http://www.tahc.state.tx.us>. Dr. Hillman urged equine owners and veterinarians to call state animal health officials directly before hauling, as many states have not yet distributed entry requirement information. Contact information for state veterinarians may be obtained from the TAHC at 800-550-8242, ext. 710, or by emailing ceverett@tahc.state.tx.us.

"We are continuing the

equine piroplasmosis disease investigation initiated in October in South Texas. No horse movement is being allowed from or to the ranch where the infection was detected," said Dr. Hillman. "While this tick-borne disease has not been considered endemic in the U.S., cases of the disease, scientifically known as *Theileria equi*, and previously called *Babesia equi*, have been detected in the U.S. Our epidemiologists are tracing the movement of specific equine animals. Blood tests will be conducted, and the animals will be examined for ticks. Individual equine owners will be contacted, if their horse needs to be tested by animal health officials."

Dr. Hillman refrained from speculating on how many equine animals will be tested or how many may be exposed or infected. "Until the epidemiological work and

testing of potentially exposed horses is completed, there is no way to predict how many horses may be affected with this tick-borne illness," he said.

Dr. Hillman said horses infected with equine piroplasmosis may appear well, while others may exhibit a host of non-specific clinical signs, such as fever or anemia. These clinical signs also could be attributed to a variety of other diseases or causes. Blood tests are needed to diagnosis the disease.

"Equine owners should talk with their private veterinary practitioners about complying with interstate movement requirements, testing recommendations and protecting their horses from ticks. If a horse appears to be ill, it should be evaluated by an accredited private veterinary practitioner," said Dr. Hillman.

COWPOKES®

By Ace Reid



"Banker, I ain't got any credit references, they have all gone broke!"



Ginger of Bo Bo's Nursery provides overview of poinsettia care while touring the greenhouses. *Contributed photo*

Master Gardeners visit BoBo's Nursery

Local Master Gardeners had an early Holiday treat as they visited behind the scenes of Bo Bo's Nursery. Ginger with Bo Bo's was the feature speaker of this week's Master Gardener Training. She provided a history of the family business and how they began and evolved in to the national recognized nursery business that they are today. This business really has roots after thirty something years they still provide the dedicated service that Ginger and Cheryl's mother and father provided in the humble beginnings of the roadside vegetable stand.

Master Gardeners toured the start up houses where every plant begins its cycle at Bo Bo's and then moved to the wholesale section where plants are in mass volume and are sold to other nurseries and landscape customers and then over to the holiday favorite poinsettia houses. From there the groups visited the retail area of the business and were provided a wonderful meal by the staff at Bo Bo's Nursery. Texas Agrilife Extension would like to Thank Bo Bo's staff for their friendly hospitality.

Chute 'n the Bull by Tommy Neyland



Tommy Neyland

The year is 2015 and after years of debate among conservation organizations, pro-hunting organizations, animal rights activists and anti-hunting groups, all forms of hunting in the United States have been banned by the federal government.

Is this a real possibility? In my opinion, the answer is yes. Regardless of what some people think, hunting is an opportunity that can be taken away and those who will ultimately decide its fate are the non-hunting public. Currently, the public is mostly undecided on whether hunting is moral, a wholesome activity or still involves the sportsmanlike pursuit of animals.

There are about 12.5 million hunters over the age of 16 in the U.S. It is vital

for hunters, both individually and as a group, to demonstrate that hunting is a moral and wholesome activity. This is increasingly difficult because more and more people are further removed from rural lifestyles. Fewer immediate family members are involved in hunting or agriculture where the birth, care and death of animals are parts of daily life. Lessons from the farm are largely lost on today's generation, including hunters.

The fate of hunting will be influenced by at least three factors. First, hunters need to police their own ranks and not ignore questionable acts of other hunters. Secondly, hunters need to communicate more effectively with non-hunting groups. Lastly, to be sustainable, the sport needs new hunters.

Policing our ranks should not emphasize internal debates over archery, muzzle loader or rifle seasons or equipment choice. These things are minor compared to hunters holding one another accountable to ethical and high moral conduct.

We can't ignore activities such as poaching and trespassing. Additionally, appropriate conduct extends to

the concept of "fair chase" or avoiding the use of technology, gadgets or practices that gives unfair advantage to hunters over the animals being pursued.

Drs. Michael Nelson and Kelly Millenbah published an article in the fall 2009 issue of Wildlife Professional proposing that there may be more common ground between ethical hunters and non-hunters than either group thinks.

They point out that, in the debate over the ethics of hunting, dialogue has been replaced by dogmatism, honesty by hostility and progress by platitudes. However, they suggest that a common ground exists: respect for animals. They go on to say that most anti-hunters simply want hunters to demonstrate respect for the animals they hunt and to acknowledge that animals have moral standing.

With the increasing commercialization of hunting and wildlife, the potential grows for this industry to substitute "entertainment" and a "positive experience" for traditional values and ethical concepts, such as fair chase. Some aspects of commercialization, e.g., canned hunts and gadgetry, will appeal to those

who are shortsighted and are not vested in the outcome of hunting. Time in the field is at a premium and, with companies offering gadgets and canned hunts that promise increased odds of harvesting an animal... well, money talks.

Statistics show that hunter numbers are declining annually. Probable factors are too numerous to look into here. Traditionally, hunting has been a male-dominated activity, but this is changing. More and more women are taking up and enjoying hunting.

In regards to youth, hunting seems to be overshadowed by video games, television, computers and organized activities such as sports and music. An increasing number of youth are not being taught that death is a part of life and that game animals are a renewable resource. It is important that youth and women become involved and participate in hunting.

Take a child hunting. Invite your spouse, sister, aunt or a neighbor to spend some time in the field to share your knowledge regarding the importance of respecting animals, hunting ethically, observing sportsmanship and maintaining wildlife habitat.

TDA Market Recap November 9, 2009

AUSTIN – (Nov. 9, 2009) For the week ending Nov. 7, 2009, feeder cattle prices at Texas auctions were mostly steady to \$3 higher per hundredweight, with the most increase on offerings weighing more than 600 pounds. Improving prospects for winter grazing and the previous week's higher fed cattle prices supported the market. Cotton prices increased on prospects for higher global demand and ongoing concerns about the crop in the Southeastern U.S. Grain prices ended the week slightly higher. As for futures markets, fed cattle were higher, wheat and corn were up slightly and feeder cattle, cotton and lumber were lower. During the week, parts of Southeast Texas received up

to 1.5 inches of rainfall, while the rest of the state recorded little or no precipitation. Topsoil moisture remains in mostly short to adequate supply statewide, though some areas in East Texas reported surplus conditions. Winter wheat planting was active in many areas with the crop now 82 percent planted, slightly behind normal. Cotton harvest progressed to 44 percent complete and bolls are open on 95 percent of the acreage. The crop was reported in mostly good to fair condition. Corn harvest was 92 percent complete with most of the remaining acreage on the Northern High Plains. The state's grain sorghum and peanut crops were both 75 percent harvested by week's end.

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BUFFALO LIVESTOCK REPORT

Sale Date: 11-14-09	Choice Pairs.....1050-1100	600-700 lbs.....75-87
Head Count: 2911	Good Pairs.....850-975	700-800 lbs.....75-84
Last Week: 1839	Plain Pairs.....650-750	Heifer Calves & Yearlings
Sellers: 324	Bred Cows 3-6 Yr Old.....450-710	<i>Some plainer, hard to place calves below these figures.</i>
Buyers: 70	Steer/Bull Calves & Yearlings	150-200 lbs.....100-127
Cutter Cows.....32-43.5	<i>Some plainer, hard to place calves below these figures.</i>	200-300 lbs.....95-125
Fat Cows.....33-43	150-200 lbs.....110-132	300-400 lbs.....80-106
Canner Cows.....25-39	200-300 lbs.....105-129	400-500 lbs.....78-90
Slaughter Bulls Steady/Down	300-400 lbs.....100-130	500-600 lbs.....70-87
Heavy Bulls.....49-53	400-500 lbs.....90-116	600-700 lbs.....70-84
Light Bulls.....42-47	500-600 lbs.....80-103	700-800 lbs.....65-84
Cow/Calf Pairs & Bred Cows		

GROESBECK LIVESTOCK REPORT

Date of Sale: 11-12-09	Young Bred Cows.....700-900	500-600.....102-108
Head Count: 1596	Older Plain Cows.....450-700	600-700.....87-96
Cut/Boner.....38-42	Good Choice Pairs.....	700-800.....82-89
Canner Cow.....32-36	Common Medium Pair.....700-900	<i>Heifers Good & Choice</i>
Breaker Utility Com Cow.....40-43.50	Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings	Up to 200.....
Thin Cows.....28-32	<i>Steers Good & Choice</i>	300-400.....100-110
Bulls Yield Grade 1&2.....50-53	Up to 200.....125-137	400-500.....92-104
Bulls Yield Grade 3&4.....48-50	300-400.....118-127	500-600.....85-90
Stocker Cows	400-500.....102-119	600-700.....84-91

ANDERSON CO. LIVESTOCK REPORT

Date of Sale: 11-11-09	400-500.....87-1.07	500-600.....77-94
Head Count: 1263	500-600.....82-98	600-700.....72-78
Buyers: 67	600-700.....78-88	700-800.....65-77
Sellers: 115	700-800.....67-80	Slaughter Cows20-46
Steers/Bull Calves & Yearlings	Heifers Calves & Yearlings	Slaughter Bulls40-55
200-300.....95-1.35	200-300.....90-1.27	Stocker Cows . 475.00-1000.00
300-400.....90-1.29	300-400.....87-1.18	Pairs575.00-1150.00
	400-500.....82-1.00	

EAST TEXAS LIVESTOCK REPORT

Date: 11-10-09	Slaughter Bulls42.50-52.50	305-400.....95-122
Volume: 2877	Bred Cows520-1090/hd	405-500.....84-107
Tested: 558	Cow/Calf Pairs720-990	505-600.....80-102
Sellers: 295	Feeder Steers/Bulls Large Frame #1's	605-800.....73-88
Total Buyers: 86	150-200.....110-122	Compared to last week:
Packer Buyers: 4	205-300.....111-130	The front-end of feeder steers and heifers ended \$2-3 lower while the plainer classes finished \$5 to \$7 lower. Slaughter cows finished \$3 to \$4 lower while slaughter bulls ended firm. Buyer trade and demand were very selective on a fair quality offering.
Order Buyers: 11	305-400.....105-128	
Cattle Companies: 24	405-500.....90-113	
Feeder Orders: 216	505-600.....83-108	
Slaughter Cows	605-800.....80.50-91	
Canners.....21-30.00	Feeder Heifers - Large Frame#1	
Boning/Utility.....31-36.00	150-200.....110-115	
Cutters.....37-43.50	205-300.....100-120	